

Oberholser on Birds from Central Asia.¹— Dr. W. L. Abbott, formerly of Philadelphia, has earned an enviable reputation as a scientific and enthusiastic collector, who for a number of years past has devoted himself to natural history exploration, visiting successively parts of East Africa, the Seychelles, Madagascar, the Indian Archipelago, and southern and Central Asia in the prosecution of his work. The United States National Museum has been the recipient of his generous and extensive contributions of excellent material to various departments of zoölogy, but especially to mammalogy and ornithology, thus opening a new field of research to American naturalists, whose opportunities heretofore have largely been restricted to American material.

Mr. Oberholser's paper relates to a small collection of birds from Cashmere and Ladak, numbering 142 specimens and representing 62 species. *Totanus totanus curhinus* is described as new. *Saxicola montana* Gould (not Koch) is renamed *Saxicola oreophila*, and *Perissospiza* (nom. nov.) replaces *Pycnorhamphus* Hume, the latter being preoccupied. Several pages are given to a description of a series of 18 specimens of *Buteo ferox*, which seems to illustrate all the principal phases of plumage of this exceedingly variable species. The collector's notes from the fresh specimens, including measurements, are a valuable feature of the paper.— J. A. A.

Oberholser on a Collection of Birds from Madagascar.²— A small collection of birds made by the Rev. James Wills, chiefly near Imerina, in the east central part of the island, numbering 57 species, represented by 110 specimens, and purchased by the United States National Museum, forms the basis of the present paper. All are referred to previously described species, but the exact data respecting time and place of collection of the specimens, and Mr. Oberholser's critical annotations on many of them, and on various points of nomenclature, render the paper of much value.— J. A. A.

Oberholser on Birds from Santa Barbara Islands, California.³— This is a list of the birds collected by Mr. Clark P. Streater under the auspices of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, April

¹ Notes on Birds collected by Doctor W. L. Abbott in Central Asia. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXII, No. 1195, pp. 205-228. April, 1900.

² Catalogue of Collection of Birds from Madagascar. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXII, No. 1197, pp. 235-248. April, 1900.

³ Notes on some Birds from Santa Barbara Islands, California. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXII, No. 1196, pp. 229-234. April, 1900.